

**Southeast Area Education Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes November 14, 2011**

Meeting called to order: 7:08 PM

Advisory Council Members: Bill Bafitis, Jackie Brewster and Sandra Skordalos

Attendees: Diane Holt (Edgemere ES parent) & Brenda Wilson (BCPS employee Edgemere ES)

Presenters: Sgt. Conaboy (Drug and Gang Unit Baltimore County Police Dept.) and Glenda Myrick (BCPS Student Support Services Coordinator)

Presentation:

Sgt. Conaboy's presentation was very informative. He went over the gang activity in Baltimore County. He covered specific gangs and their behavior. He warned us not to underestimate how bad the bad ones can be. This was an eye opening presentation. The best deterrent is parent intervention and neighborhood groups. Young people need to have other options. I wish more parents and community members would have attended.

We were given the Parent's Guide to Gangs from the Office of Juvenile Justice. For more information you can contact the Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse at 800-638-8736 or visit National Youth Gang Center at <http://www.nationalgangcenter.gov/>. We were also told to visit the BCPS website. Very few actual incidents occur at school. BCPS does have a gang policy - Policy 5551

Gang Activity, and Similar Destructive or Illegal Group Behavior

I. Philosophy

- a. The Board of Education of Baltimore County (Board) believes that gangs and gang-related activities pose a serious threat to the safety of students and staff members and that gangs and gang activities can significantly disrupt the educational environment. Therefore, the Board prohibits gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior on school property, on school buses or at school-sponsored events.
- b. The Board prohibits reprisal or retaliation against an individual whom reports gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior or who is a victim, or witness to, an act of gang activity.

II. Implementation

A. The Board directs the Superintendent to take necessary and appropriate actions to implement this policy, including provision for taking appropriate disciplinary or other action when this policy has been violated, as follows:

1. Establish, implement, and maintain procedures in accordance with the Maryland State Board of Education's (MSDE) Model Gang Policy.
2. Create reporting procedures for suspected gang activity and similar destructive or illegal group behavior in schools.
3. Establish a proper systemwide monitoring/tracking system to follow progress of each investigation.
4. Develop procedures for the prompt investigation of suspected gang activity or similar destructive or illegal group behavior.
5. Develop information/resources on support and intervention services and educational programs for students, parents, teachers, staff, volunteers, and administrators in order to prevent, intervene in, and suppress gang activity, and similar destructive or illegal group behavior in schools.
7. Designate at least one school security officer for each school that enrolls students in grades 6-12.
8. Enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Office of the Baltimore County State's Attorney to foster coordination of gang prevention, intervention, and suppression efforts.

You can review the policy and rule online http://www.bcps.org/system/policies_rules/

Public Questions and/or Comments: none
Presentation Period Ended 8:30PM

Advisory Council Meeting

The council met briefly to discuss:

- Minutes from October – Approved.
- October 2011 ecp brief on “All means All”
- Education Policy 1230- Area Education Advisory Councils (currently under review and open to public comment online www.bcps.org .) Advisory council members still believe that losing the area superintendent’s attendance at our meetings has hampered our work. If BCPS wants to stay with non-geographical superintendents than the superintendents should rotate during our meetings.
- There was concern over the attendance of our members.
- We were happy to see that Sparrows Point MS knew we were coming and had an employee ready to open the library for us. The presentation equipment we requested was available in the library. Thank you to the staff at SPMS.
- We discussed the Joint Advisory Council meeting that Jackie Brewster, Steve Crum, and Sandra Skordalos attended representing the southeast on November 10th at the Greenwood Campus. Dr. Hairston gave his report. It was a lengthy report, but we were not able to ask board members or Dr. Hairston any questions. Hopefully, there will be a future joint advisory council meeting where we are able to give input to the BCPS Board of Education.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:00PM

Next meeting: January 9th 7PM at Bear Creek ES – Enrollment and Capacities for Southeast Area Schools